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TAGS: [MNUC](#) [IR](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON UNSC ACTION ON IRAN: HMG IN FULL
AGREEMENT, BUT PESSIMISTIC ON MOVING RUSSIA, CHINA

REF: STATE 188259

Classified By: Political Counselor Rick Mills for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (CO) UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Iran Team Leader Ben Fender expressed full agreement with U.S. views reftel, both as to the implications of the November 14 AIEA report as well as to the urgent need to move quickly on a UNSC resolution; he also said the UK strongly opposes any IAEA technical assistance on the Arak reactor. Fender was pessimistic, however, on prospects in the UNSC for hurrying Russia or China, both of whom he said are "not now in the mood" to support any useful statement.

12. (CO) Iran Watcher (Poloff) called on Fender November 17 to deliver the message contained in reftel on pressing P5 plus 1 governments to advance negotiations at the UNSC. Poloff explained USG is encouraging E3 partners to produce a strong resolution aimed at Iranian compliance with UNSC 1696, specifically with regard to suspension of uranium enrichment and full cooperation with IAEA investigators, and to push Russia and China to support such a measure.

13. (CO) After reviewing the demarche in detail, Fender said the UK government is in full agreement. Fender said the UK is pushing Russia and China, and that UK Foreign Secretary Beckett would meet over the weekend in Hanoi with Russian FM Lavrov, where she would once again urge speedy adoption of a UNSC resolution on Iran. Fender, however, was pessimistic on the likelihood the Hanoi meeting would produce any helpful Russian response.

14. (CO) Fender raised possible technical support for the Arak reactor, arguing the international community should strongly oppose any encouragement of Iran's continuing requests for support of Arak. Fender said any support for Arak is "totally unacceptable" as long as Iran remains unresponsive on enrichment and to IAEA questions about Iran's nuclear activities. Fender added that, regarding current efforts to develop the next IAEA Board statement, resistance from Russia and China renders pointless any further efforts to include those two governments in an IAEA statement.

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